

# ***BLM News***

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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## **CHANCE FIRE RE-SEEDING UNDERWAY**

Public lands east of Elko which burned in the Chance Fire last August are being restored under an Emergency Stabilization Seeding project.

The Chance Fire started August 28, 2005 as a result of illegal barrel burning. The fire spread rapidly, and at various times threatened the communities of Spring Creek, Osino, Ryndon, and Elburz. A Type II Fire Management Team commanded by Jerry Brunner arrived in Elko and assumed management responsibility for containing the incident. The fire was declared contained on August 31, 2005 and burned nearly 24,000 acres.

“The land is being re-seeded with a mixture of native grasses, shrubs and forbs,” said BLM Range Conservationist Tyson Gripp. “We drill seeded approximately 2,500 acres on the south side of Elko Mountain in November and December. Right now we’re using a helicopter to spread seed over watersheds and drainages. We’re targeting those areas first because of concern for soil erosion from wind and spring runoff. The seeding will also help prevent the spread of invasive plants or weeds. Thus far we’ve spread 19,000 pounds of seed on approximately 1,500 acres.”

Gripp continued, “The next step will be to aerial seed an additional 1,400 acres at higher elevations around Elko Mountain. We use the helicopter on those areas that are too steep or unsuitable for drill seeding using a tractor. Monitoring will begin next summer to check the success of the seedings.”

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